IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 7, in the paragraph beginning on line 15, please amend as follows:

Fig. 3 shows a timing diagram for waveforms in one embodiment of the ballast circuit **10**. Diagram 1 shows the voltage waveform of the power supply **52**. Diagram 2 shows the voltage waveform of the lamp **50**. Diagram 3 shows the current waveform of the lamp **50**. Diagram 4 shows the voltage waveform at the output of the voltage sensor **54**. Diagram 5 shows the voltage waveform of the signal conditioner **130** output. Diagram 6 shows the waveforms of the reference generator **100** and the output of the summation circuit ~~130~~ **120**. Diagram 7 shows the output signal of the comparator **110**.

Page 8, in the paragraph beginning on line 4, please amend as follows:

At the time t2, the voltage across the lamp **50** may increase to a level triggering the starter circuit **140** to apply a high voltage across the lamp **50**. The high voltage from the starter circuit **140** may initiate an arc in the lamp **50**. As the starter voltage is divided by the resistors **34**,~~26~~ **36**, and **38**, the voltage across resistors **36** and **38** may increase. When the voltage across resistors **36** and **38** increases to the zener voltage of the zener diodes **42** and **44**, the diodes may start conducting limiting the voltage to the input of the summation circuit ~~130~~ **120**.